

THE BUTTERFLIES OF MOUNT KAPUTAR NATIONAL PARK, NEW SOUTH WALES

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Introduction

Mount Kaputar National Park is situated approximately 420 km NNW of Sydney and some 50 km E of Narrabri. The Kaputar plateau is the highest area of the Nandewar Range and forms the major part of the Park. This high and deeply dissected plateau rises abruptly from the north-west plains and represents the eroded remnants of an ancient volcano. Much of the Park has a rich soil derived from the volcanic parent rock and this supports a luxuriant flora. Dry sclerophyll forest covers the bulk of the Park and many of the high tops support large stands of snow gum (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) and tea tree (*Leptospermum* sp.).

The 37 butterfly species listed here included only one previously recorded from the Park, *Anisynta albovenata weemala* Couchman (Common and Waterhouse, 1972).

Collecting was undertaken during two visits to the Park, each of five days, during January and March 1978. Most attention was given to the areas above 1300 m but three days were spent collecting between 450-1100 m altitude.

Two distinct butterfly faunas appeared to be represented within the Park boundaries, one in the dry sclerophyll areas below 1100 m and another in the snow gum areas above 1400 m. Three species, *Trapezites phigalioides* Waterhouse, *Dispar compacta* (Butler) and *Signeta flammeata* (Butler), were confined to the latter area and were only taken along the sides of gullies bordering creek beds. Many of the other species were common only at altitudes below 1100 m although occasional specimens were seen hill-topping on Mount Kaputar (1524 m).

List of species

Species	months recorded
HESPERIIDAE	
<i>Trapezites phigalioides phigalioides</i> Waterhouse	Jan.
<i>Anisynta albovenata weemala</i> Couchman	Sept., Oct.
<i>Dispar compacta</i> (Butler)	Jan.
<i>Signeta flammeata</i> (Butler)	Jan.
<i>Taractrocera papyria papyria</i> (Boisduval)	Mar.
<i>Ocybadistes walkeri sothis</i> Waterhouse	Mar.
PAPILIONIDAE	
<i>Papilio anactus</i> W. S. Macleay	Jan.
<i>Papilio aegaeus aegaeus</i> Donovan	Mar.
<i>Papilio demoleus sthenelus</i> W. S. Macleay	Mar.
PIERIDAE	
<i>Catopsilia pyranthe crokera</i> (W. S. Macleay)	Mar.
<i>Eurema smilax</i> (Donovan)	Mar.

<i>Delias argenthona argenthona</i> (Fabricius)	Jan.
<i>Delias aganippe</i> (Donovan)	Jan.
<i>Delias harpalyce</i> (Donovan)	Jan.
<i>Delias nigrina</i> (Fabricius)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Anaphaeis java teutonia</i> (Fabricius)	Jan., Mar.

NYMPHALIDAE

<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> (Linnaeus)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Danaus chrysippus petilia</i> (Stoll)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Euploea core corinna</i> (W. S. Macleay)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Geitoneura acantha acantha</i> (Donovan)	Jan.
<i>Geitoneura klugii klugii</i> (Guérin-Ménéville)	Jan.
<i>Heteronympha merope merope</i> (Fabricius)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Polyura pyrrhus sempronius</i> (Fabricius)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Hypolimnas bolina nerina</i> (Fabricius)	Mar.
<i>Vanessa kershawi</i> (McCoy)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Vanessa itea</i> (Fabricius)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Precis villida calybe</i> (Godart)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Acraea andromacha andromacha</i> (Fabricius)	Mar.

LYCAENIDAE

<i>Jalmenus icilius</i> Hewitson	Mar.
<i>Ogyris genoveva duaringa</i> Bethune-Baker	Mar.
<i>Nacaduba biocellata biocellata</i> (C. & R. Felder)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Theclinessthes miskini</i> (T. P. Lucas)	Jan.
<i>Theclinessthes onycha onycha</i> (Hewitson)	Jan.
<i>Theclinessthes serpentata serpentata</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)	Mar.
<i>Everes lacturnus australis</i> Couchman	Mar.
<i>Zizina otis labradus</i> (Godart)	Jan., Mar.
<i>Candalides xanthospilos</i> (Hübner)	Jan.

Discussion

The distributions of all the above species are extensive and most occur at least throughout eastern Australia. Douglas (1976) recorded 26 species of butterflies from Narrabri, 50 km W of the Park. Of these, eight are unrecorded from the Park and 20 additional species have been found within the Park boundaries.

Eight species, *Trapezites phigalioides*, *Dispar compacta*, *Signeta flammeata*, *Delias nigrina*, *Geitoneura klugii*, *Theclinessthes onycha*, *Everes lacturnus* and *Candalides xanthospilos* have not previously been recorded so far west at this latitude.

During March, eggs, larvae and pupae of *Danaus plexippus* and *D. chrysippus* were common on *Asclepias curassavica* (Fam. Asclepiadaceae) growing along Burrawa Creek. A mature larva of *Papilio demoleus* was found on a citrus tree in the same area. Approximately sixty larvae of *Ogyris genoveva* of varying instars were found under a loose piece of bark on a eucalypt tree. Three of the larger larvae were brought to Sydney but were heavily parasitized by braconid

wasps (*Apanteles*, *ultor* sp. group). The wasp larvae emerged from the base of the ventral prolegs of their host and spun their cocoons almost immediately. The *Ogyris* larvae lived for about four weeks after the emergence of the wasp larvae before dying.

The 37 species recorded from the Park by no means form an exhaustive list of those that can be expected to occur there. Many other species will certainly be found when further, more intensive, collecting is undertaken.

Acknowledgements

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